



# American Agri-Women

American Angus Auxiliary  
American Hereford Women  
American National CattleWomen  
American Sheep Industry Women  
Black Hills Women in Timber  
California Women in Agriculture  
CERES International Women's Fraternity  
Colorado Agri-Women  
Colorado Wool Growers Auxiliary  
Farm Safety 4 Just Kids  
Florida Agri-Women  
Foremost Farms USA  
Fur Commission USA  
Idaho Agri-Women  
Idaho Women in Timber  
Illinois Agri-Women  
Iowa Women in Agriculture  
Kansas Agri-Women  
Kansas Cattle Women  
Kansas Federation of Animal Owners  
Kansas Sheep Auxiliary  
Kentucky Women in Agriculture  
Lakes States Women in Timber  
Maine Agri-Women  
Michigan Agri-Women  
Michigan Peach Sponsors  
Minnesota Agri-Women  
Missouri Agri-Women  
Missouri CattleWomen  
Montana Agri-Women  
Montana Women in Timber  
National Shorthorn Lassie Association  
Nebraska Agri-Women  
New Mexico Cow Belles  
New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary  
New York Agri-Women  
New York State Vegetable Growers Association  
North Dakota Agri-Women  
North Dakota CattleWomen  
Ohio Agri-Women  
Oklahoma Women for Agriculture  
Oregon Women for Agriculture  
Oregon Women in Timber  
Penn's Agri-Women  
Progressive Agriculture Safety Days  
Salers Belles  
Sigma Alpha National Alumni Association  
Sigma Alpha Sorority  
Texas Agri-Women  
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Auxiliary  
Texas Produce Association  
Texas Vegetable Association  
United Agri-business League  
Washington State Dairy Women  
Washington Women for Agriculture  
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture  
Women of Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association  
Women of National Agricultural Aviation Association  
Women's Mining Coalition  
Wyoming Agri-Women

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

WT Docket No. 11-65

May 31, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

American Agri-Women (AAW) represents 58 state and affiliate organizations as well as individual members throughout the country, representing forty thousand women involved in agriculture. Throughout the history of AAW, our members have been actively involved and making a difference in legislative and regulatory matters at the local, state, and national levels. Our 50 state presence and active involvement in legislative and regulatory matters leads us to submit these comments to the Federal Communications Commission regarding the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA.

Agriculture is a time and information intensive industry, requiring timely information to make quick decisions. The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA interests us not because of the business justifications, but because of the implications of this merger on women involved in agriculture as they seek to make important decisions affecting, themselves, their families and their communities. For instance, those who live in rural America will benefit from expanded advanced wireless coverage in small towns and rural communities, enabling them to retrieve valuable information on the go from their wireless phone.

The technology that enables this broad and fast dissemination of information to women involved in agriculture is known as 4G LTE. According to the companies involved, the completion of this merger will allow 55 million more Americans to access 4G LTE than would have been possible without the merger. This increased access to high speed wireless technology will make it easier for more members of the AAW to download critical crop, cattle and feed prices, all while enabling active participation in the global marketplace for these important commodities.

Without the expanded access it is AAW's fear that a significant number of women involved in agriculture will go without next-generation wireless service for many years.

An additional reason AAW believes this merger will benefit women involved in agriculture is that advanced wireless enabled phones will make real-time and interactive mobile education a reality for many who were previously prevented from participating in distance learning. Education is an integral part of AAW as we offer curriculum dealing with agricultural issues as well as educational materials, mentoring, and consumer education. The delivery of education would be enhanced by the availability of 4G LTE, which enables real-time and interactive communication between the student and teacher, all from great distances, which will enhance the lives and personal development of all those living in rural America.

Perhaps more importantly, the merger will enable more dynamic and effective communications between those involved in agriculture. The technology will enable fast and efficient voice, video and data communication from almost anywhere. This greater coverage means that people in previously underserved areas will have the opportunity to interact with one another and people around the world in ways never before imagined. 4G LTE wireless service is fast and powerful that regular phone calls will turn into face to face video chats. Communication between AAW members will do nothing but strengthen the ties between us, enabling us to accomplish our various objectives, from positively impacting education to proactively influencing legislation.

In summary, the AAW is in favor of the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile because of the benefits that will accrue to women involved in agriculture – increased wireless broadband coverage, greater access to information, the ability to participate in global commerce, the promotion of critical education initiatives and more effective communications between the people of small towns and rural communities. We view this merger as helping women involved in agriculture achieve critical agricultural and business objectives as well as improve their lives.

AAW appreciates your careful review of these comments.

Best Regards,

*Chris Wilson*

Chris Wilson  
President  
American Agri-Women

